

**Specification Amendments**

Please delete the paragraph 19, and replace it as follows:

[0019] In the preferred embodiment, the spines are designed to set at an acute angle to the fabric or mat when the fabric or mat is rolled out flat, and the spines are not being pressed upon by the rolls of the mat or anything else. The spines are designed to be compressed or lay nearly flat during shipping but will return ~~to there rest~~ to their rest position or preferred angle of nearly thirty to forty degrees after the fabric or mat or other structure carrying the spines is placed on the slope. Once the landscape materials are added, the weight of the landscape materials may bend the spines farther away from the landscape fabric or mat, but typical landscape covering materials should not be able to bend the spines past 90 degrees.

Please delete paragraph 20, and replace it as follows:

[0020] Other systems of erosion control on slopes, known to the inventors and which are believed to be currently used, consist of hydro seeding the slope with various types of vegetation or seed mixes. The primary disadvantage of this method is that in heavy rainfall, unless the seeds have already germinated and taken root, they tend to wash away. Another disadvantage is that the seeds need time to take root, which would not allow this system to be used at times where protection is needed immediately. In these situations one method currently implemented is to simply cover the slope with straw. The straw can be blown away with wind or washed away with rain. ~~Traffickers~~ Tacifiers are also used to adhere the straw to the slope. However, as the adhesive quality of the ~~trafficker~~ tacifier decays, the straw becomes loose. Another disadvantage of the above methods is that slippage occurs if the soil on the slope is disturbed.

Please delete paragraph 25, and replace it as follows:

[0025] The present invention consist of a matrix or field of spines which are attached by a variety of means to an underlying structure. The

1 underlying structure can include landscape fabric, open mesh weave or open  
mat material. The present invention is primarily meant to retain landscape  
bark, mulch, straw or any other similar materials that are desired to be  
5 captured and retained on a slope for landscaping/erosion control purposes,  
although other uses are not outside the scope of the invention.

Please delete paragraph 39, and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0039] Figure 3B is an enlarged view of the area shown ~~as 3C in~~ as 3B  
10 in figure 3A.

Please delete paragraph 60, and replace it with the following paragraph:

[0060] The spines 10 of the present invention are preferably strong and  
15 stiff yet will bend or flex somewhat. The spines of the present invention are  
also preferably set at an angle to their underlying support structure 15 so as  
to better trap material 81 on a sloped surface 82 ~~a sloped surface 81~~ and  
also to better be able to be compressed when rolled up with the underlying  
20 support structure 15 to reduce the storage volume needed. The preferred  
angle is approximately 45 degrees, and is the angle of the basal portion 12 to  
the lower support structure 15, when the spine 10 is in the rest position.

Please delete paragraph 62, and replace it as follows:

25 [0062] As shown in ~~figure 1A~~ figure 2A, the present invention consists  
of a landscape/erosion control structure 1 for retaining landscaping materials  
81. The landscape/erosion control structure 1 has a lower support structure  
15. A plurality of spines 10 are attached to the lower support structure 15,  
30 each of the plurality of spines 10 being formed with a base end 11, a base  
portion 12, an elongated distal portion 13, and a distal end 14. In the  
present invention, the spines 10 are arranged in relation to each other and to  
the lower support structure 15 such that spaces exist between most of the  
35 distal portions 13 of the spines 10. These spaces allow landscaping  
materials 81 to become trapped by the spines 10. In the present invention,

1 the spines 10 are relatively stiff such that the distal ends 14 of the spines 10  
stand away from the lower support structure 15 when in a rest position.  
This again allows landscaping materials 81 to fall into the spaces around the  
5 spines 10 and become trapped by the spines 10.

Please delete paragraph 63, and replace it with the following:

[0063] In the present invention, it is preferred that a substantial number  
of the distal ends 14 of the spines 10 do not touch other spines 10. This  
10 also best allows landscaping materials 81 to fall into the spaces around the  
spines 10 and become trapped by the spines 10. Also, in the preferred  
embodiment of the present invention, the distal portions 13 of the spines 10  
have a designated width and the spaces between the distal portions 13 of  
15 adjacent spines 10 is substantially greater than the width of the spines 10.  
It is an object of the present invention to hide the landscape/erosion control  
structure from view by covering it with landscaping materials 81. By  
creating stiff and relatively narrow spines in relation to the space between  
20 the spines, the chances are ~~better than~~ better than landscaping materials 81  
spread out on the landscape/erosion control structure 1 will completely  
surround and hide the spines 10 and completely cover the lower support  
structure 15. The base end 11 of the spine is preferably approximately 0.5  
25 mm to 1 mm wide.

Please delete paragraph 68, and replace it with the following:

[0068] As is best shown in the embodiment shown in figures 6A, 6B,  
and 6C, the landscape/erosion control structure 1 is formed with ~~spines 10~~  
30 spines 310, wherein the ~~base portions 12 of the spines 10~~ base portions 12  
of the spines 310 are wider than the elongated ~~distal portions 13 of the~~  
~~spines 10~~ distal portions 313 of the spines 310, and the ~~distal ends 14 of~~  
~~the spines 10~~ distal ends 314 of the spines 310 come to a point. It is  
35 preferred that the ~~spines 10~~ spines 310 be wider at their base ~~portions 12~~  
portions 312 for making a strong attachment to the lower support structure

1 15, while being narrow at their ~~distal ends 14~~ distal ends 314, so it is more  
difficult to see their ~~distal ends 14~~, ~~should the distal end 14 of a spine 10~~  
distal ends 314, should the distal end 314 of a spine 310 protrude above the  
5 landscape material.

Please delete paragraph 78 and replace it with the following:

[0078] In the embodiment depicted in figure 2A, the spines 10 are  
attached to a landscape fabric 20. The landscape fabric 20 is of material  
10 that substantially blocks the transmission of light as to not allow growth of  
vegetation disposed beneath the landscape fabric 20. The landscape fabric  
20 is preferably formed in sheets of predetermined length, width and  
thickness. The width and length of the underlying support structure 15  
15 should be determined according to factors relating to both the manufacture,  
storage and shipping of the erosion control structure 1 and to the  
deployment of the erosion control structure 1. Obviously, when the present  
invention is used by homeowners who have small areas of land and smaller  
20 places of storage and smaller means of transport then the erosion control  
structure will be provided in smaller rolls, for example rolls from 3 to 5-~~feet~~  
wide 5 feet wide and 100 to 300 feet long. When the erosion control  
structure is used by commercial landscapers the rolls could be very large and  
25 very long, for example 10 to 20 feet wide and 500 to 1000 feet long. The  
landscape fabric 20 is preferably made of UV resistant, high-density  
polyethylene that is 3-6 millimeters thick. The sheet of landscape fabric 20  
preferably has the capability to allow water to pass through the membrane of  
30 the fabric 20 through micro pores. This avoids ponding of water in flat  
areas. The preferred landscape fabric 20 also has a rough surface, that could  
be produced by short filaments or fibers, if the fabric is a woven material.  
The preferred landscape material 20 is also dull and not shiny so it is more  
35 inconspicuous.

Please delete paragraph 81, and replace it with the following:

1 [0081] In the preferred use, the desired length of the landscape fabric  
20 is rolled out over the sloped area or surface 82 to be landscaped. See  
figure 8A . The landscape fabric 20 carrying the spines 10 can be anchored  
5 to the ground 80 by placing pegs 35 in preformed holes 26 in the landscape  
material 20 or by puncturing through the landscape material ~~10~~ material 20.  
Holes may be cut into the landscape fabric 20 to accommodate trees, plants  
or other obstacles. Landscape bark 81 or another similar material is then  
10 placed onto the landscape fabric 20, and the spines 10 retain the landscape  
material 81. If necessary, an additional length or lengths of the landscape  
fabric 20 may be placed in side-by-side relation to insure total coverage.

Please delete paragraph 82, and replace it with the following:

15 [0082] The sheets can be anchored to the slope by placing pegs 35 in  
preformed holes 26 in the material or by puncturing through the lower  
support structure 15. The pegs are preferably strong, yet lightweight plastic  
that will not degrade and ~~have an~~ have a rounded and wide interface with  
20 the lower support structure 15 to prevent ripping of the lower support  
structure 15.

Please delete paragraph 87, and replace it with the following:

25 [0087] In the preferred embodiment of the invention, selected pairs of  
adjacent strips 22 that carry the spines 10 are arranged so that the first end  
64 of the first one of said strips 22 making up the selected pair of adjacent  
strips 22 is not in alignment with the first end 64 of the second strip 22 of  
30 the selected adjacent pair of strips 22, and these pairs of offset adjacent  
strips occur ~~a regular~~ at regular intervals as shown in figure 7A.

Please delete paragraph 93, and replace it with the following:

35 [0093] In use, the desired length of the landscape fabric 20 is rolled out  
over the sloped area to be landscaped. See figure 8A . The landscape fabric

1 20 carrying the spines 10 can be anchored to the ground 80 by placing pegs  
35 in preformed holes 26 in the landscape material 20 or by puncturing  
through the landscape ~~material 10~~ material 20. Holes may be cut into the  
5 landscape fabric 20 to accommodate trees, plants or other obstacles.  
Landscape bark 81 or another similar material is then placed onto the  
landscape fabric, and the spines 10 retain the landscape material 81. If  
necessary, an additional length or lengths of the landscape fabric 20 may be  
10 placed in side-by-side relation to insure total coverage.

Please delete paragraph 95, and replace it with the following:

[0095] The spines 10 may be of similar length or of varying lengths  
depending upon the landscape material 81 to be retained. One possible  
15 method of attaching the spines 10 to the ~~fabric 20~~ open mesh weave 40 is  
by an extrusion manufacturing process where the spines 10 are pulled out or  
extruded from the same material as the open mesh weave 40. Another  
method of attaching the spines 10 to the open mesh weave 40 is with glue  
20 or adhesive. To add strength to the product, the spines 10 are preferably  
located at the junction of the warp 41 and woof 42 on the mesh 40.

Please delete paragraph 97, and replace it with the following:

25 [0097] The open mesh weave material 40 can be anchored to the  
ground by placing pegs 35 in the ~~open spaces #~~ open spaces 57 on the  
weave 40. The primary purpose of using spines 10 with an open mesh  
material 40 is to retain straw or similar material 81 to protect the sloped  
30 surface from erosion and the sudden flow of storm water.

Please delete paragraph 98, and replace it with the following:

[0098] In the embodiment depicted in Fig 5A, the spines 10 are  
35 attached to an open mat 50. The open mat 50 does not necessarily block  
the transmission of sunlight or disallow growth of plants disposed

1 underneath the open mat 50. The open mat 50 is preferably formed in  
sheets of predetermined length, width and thickness. The open mat 50 is  
preferably made of a unitary, single-layered, flexible, UV resistant material,  
5 formed from a plurality of substantially parallel strips 51 carrying spines 10  
joined together at their ends by ~~edge strips 50~~ edge strips 55.

Please delete paragraph 100, and replace it with the following:

10 [0100] The desired length of the open mat 50 is rolled out and laid over  
the sloped area 82. The open mat weave material 50 can be anchored to the  
ground by placing pegs 35 in the ~~open spaces 56~~ open spaces 57 of the mat  
50. The primary purpose of the embodiment shown in figure 5A is to retain  
15 straw 81 or similar landscape material 81 on a sloped surface 82 for a  
variety of erosion control or storm water protection applications.

Please delete paragraph 101, and replace it with the following:

20 [0101] In the embodiment depicted in figure 6A, the spines 310 are cut  
out from a top sheet 90 of thick, preferably 20-40 millimeters, UV resistant  
polyethylene ~~material 60~~ material 90 and bent upward to a desired angle.  
The top sheet 90 can then be attached to a bottom sheet 20 of equal length  
and width of landscape fabric if the transmission of light is desired to be  
25 blocked.

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